

E. Marital Status

162 A great proportion of the people 15 years old or more are married. The rate of divorce in Formosa is low, about 0.45 per 1,000 population as compared with 2.48 for the United States.¹²

Table 5. Marital Status of Population 15 Years Old and Over - 1953 */

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Single	1,447,803	30
Married	2,966,356	62
Widowed	388,191	8
Divorced	30,508	-
Total	4,832,858	100

*/ China News Press, Chung-hua Nien-pao 1954 [China Annual, 1954], p. 77.

F. Educational Status

212
● 87 Forty-five per cent of the total population know how to read and write. If children under six years are excluded, the percentage of literacy rises to 59 per cent. Over 90 per cent of the children from six to twelve years of age now attend primary schools; primary education is compulsory. Because many illiterate people are over school age, a literacy movement as well as other types of adult education are being promoted. A detailed breakdown of the educational status of the population is shown in Table 6.

12. United Nations, Demographic Year-book, 1953, pp. 276-77.

212 But Formosa's position appears less favorable when compared with that of industrially advanced countries such as the United States, which has a literacy rate of about 95 per cent.

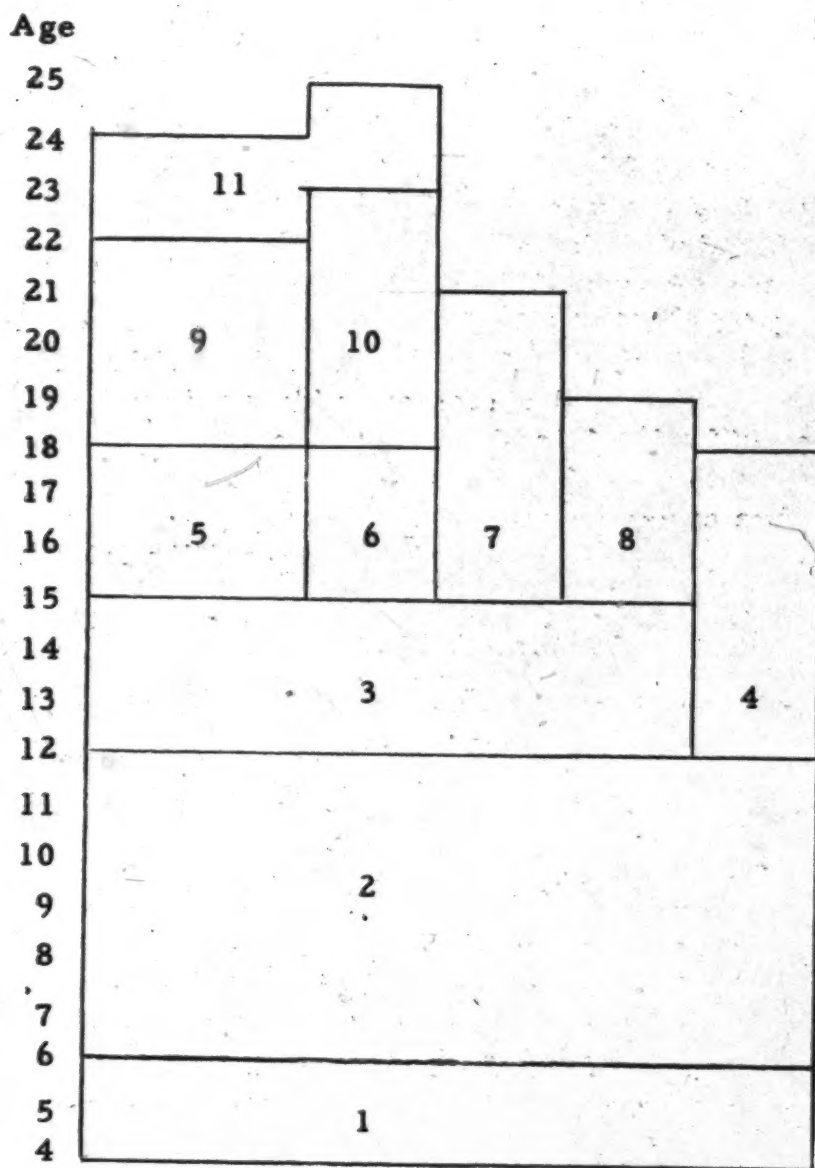
The potential literacy of Formosa's population holds promise. More than 90 per cent of the children of school age are now attending primary schools, and it is expected that within fifty years the percentage of literacy will have increased to that current in the United States. Meanwhile, adult education in Mandarin Chinese is being vigorously promoted. During the school year of 1954, approximately 610,000 people attended 5,670 classes (mainly for the teaching of Mandarin) given by hsien governments and municipalities.

II. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

•87 The educational system in Formosa follows closely that of the United States, though use of terms may differ somewhat. In the main, six years of primary and six years of secondary education constitute the basis for advancing to the collegiate level, which generally runs for four years. Post-graduate work leading to a Master's degree requires two years of study. Vocational education begins at junior middle-school level, at senior middle-school level, or at college level. Normal-school education (teacher-training) begins at senior middle-school level, where primary-school teachers are trained. Because educational facilities are limited, competitive entrance

SIMPLIFIED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
School Year 1954-55

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KEY

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1. Kindergarten -- one to two years
 2. Primary School -- six years
 3. Junior Middle School -- three years
 4. Vocational School -- one to six years
 5. Senior Middle School -- three years
 6. Normal School -- three years
 7. Junior College -- two to six years
 8. Senior Vocational School -- four years
 9. College -- four years
 10. Normal College -- five years
 11. Graduate School -- two years

- 87 examinations are required at each educational level above junior middle schools.

A. Primary Education

872 Primary education begins when a child reaches the age of six and lasts for six years. Primary education is compulsory and free to all school-age children, "school age" being defined as from 6 to 12 years. Salaries of the teaching staff are paid by local governments. Textbooks and tuition are free, but children must buy their own notebooks and pencils.

The objectives of primary education are good citizenship, proper habits, and the basic knowledge and skill necessary for earning a living. As to language, emphasis is placed on the teaching of Mandarin Chinese as evidenced by the fact that all children entering school must be taught the Mandarin phonetic symbols during the first twelve weeks of school. All texts are in the Chinese language, the compilation of which emphasizes commentary on Dr. Sun Yat-sen's "Three People's Principles,"³ exposure of the barbarism of the Communists, explanation of the nature of Soviet imperialism, stories illustrative of a patriotic spirit, material relating to Formosa past and present, and other items conducive to the building of morale and to the strengthening of determination to fight against Communist and Soviet imperialism.⁴

3. Nationalism, Democracy and Livelihood. For details, see the chapter on Structure of Government.

4. China Handbook 1954-55, Taipei China Publishing Company, 1954, p. 313.

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217 Libraries have a total of 46,187 books in European languages, 241, 574 in Chinese, and 240,603 in Japanese.

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The provincial Department of Education also maintains two trade schools for the deaf, dumb, and blind at Taipei and Tainan. These schools provide free education in trades such as woodworking, barbering, shoemaking, massaging, etc., and can accommodate 436 students, principally children.

658

Special attention has been given to fine arts education in order to encourage the aesthetic aspirations of the people. The Ministry of Education recently established for this task the Committee for Fine Arts Education and the Committee for Research and Improvement of Chinese Opera. New plays are being written and concerts, art exhibitions, and other cultural events are provided under the committees' promotion.

III. ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT

A. Content and Character of the Role

87 In Formosa, the government has general control over the supervision, educational policies, and organization of schools at all levels.

The Executive Yuan, in its proposal of an administrative program to the Legislative Yuan in March 1952, set its educational objectives as follows: "that in order to meet the needs of time...

87 the education program should develop the moral character of the citizens...should denounce the false doctrine of class struggle so as to eradicate the contamination of Communism and Soviet imperialism...and should guide and assist youth who cannot afford to attend school and encourage them to participate in the gigantic work of national salvation..." Within these broad principles, the Ministry of Education, a part of the Executive Yuan, exercises supervisory power over the education of the entire country and controls the compilation of textbooks. Financing, maintenance, and administration, however, are left to the provincial and local governments. In the academic year 1954-55, the budget of the Ministry of Education, including a supplementary budget, amounted to NT\$ 73,580,000 (US\$4,7560,000, at NT\$15.65 to US\$1 as of June 1954) which constituted 2 per cent of the national budget. However, educational expenditures are borne largely by the provincial government, which allocated 25 per cent of its NT\$1,200,000,000 expenditures for educational purposes in the 1954 fiscal year. The educational appropriations of 16 hsien and 5 municipalities and the Yangmingshan board of administration averages 35 per cent of their total budgets.¹³ All the primary schools on the island are publicly owned. Only 29 of the total of 237 secondary schools (including 21 middle schools and 8 vocational schools) are privately owned. Of 14 institutions of higher learning, 3 are owned and administered by private interests. The organization or dissolution of any school, moreover,

13. Chang Chi-yun, Education in Free China, Taipei, China Culture Publishing Foundation, 1954, pp. 2-3.

- 87 is subject to the permission of the educational authorities of the government.

New requirements in the courses offered in all levels of schools -- non-academic labor and military training -- are recent implementations of the educational program. All primary and secondary schools are required to provide vegetable gardens, workshops, implements, tools, machines, etc., in order that students may learn the habit of manual work and productive efforts. Efforts are being made to achieve closer coordination between the school and the community and between vocational schools and factories or farms.

- 87 Needs of the time, especially in Formosa, clearly indicate the necessity for military preparedness. The Ministry of Education is of the opinion that educated people should be prepared to serve on the home front if they are not to serve in the front line. Students of all schools above junior middle-school level are required to take military training at school and upon graduation. Girls are required to take nursing instead of military training. As of 1954, more than 90 per cent of the schools at junior middle-school level were giving scout training, and there were approximately 8,876 Boy Scouts and 3,084 Girl Scouts¹⁴ in Formosa.

14. Chung-hsin Ch'en "T'ai-wan-sheng T'ung-tzu-chun Chiao-yu Kai-k'uang, " ["Boy Scout Education in Taiwan"] Chiao-yü Yü Wen-hua [Education and Culture Weekly], Vol. 6, No. 10, pp. 9-11.

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- 87 In addition to training, Boy Scouts in Formosa render social service by contributing radios and books to the armed forces and by such services as maintaining order in public meetings.¹⁵

B. Education of Overseas Chinese

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648 Education of overseas Chinese is under the charge of the Ministry of Education. It is undertaken on the premise that overseas Chinese support the government of their motherland and wish to preserve their traditional culture. Chinese Communists are now making a tremendous effort to indoctrinate overseas Chinese and to attract them to study on the Mainland.

There are about 2,338 primary and secondary schools¹⁶ of overseas Chinese over the world, more than 90 per cent of which are in Southeast Asia. The ministry supplies textbooks to 1,817 of these schools and also distributes periodicals and books intended to familiarize the Chinese with Chinese culture and institutions. The ministry plans to establish a university in Formosa for overseas Chinese; in the meantime, the National Middle School for Overseas Chinese, with an enrollment of 200 students from Vietnam, Korea, and other countries began instruction on October 21, 1955.

The ministry has continually helped the overseas students by assigning them to various

15. Ibid.

16. Asia Foundation Bulletin, Aug. 5, 1955.

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648 schools on the island, assisting them in finding part-time employment, and offering them counseling while at school. It is reported that, during 1951-54, there were 2,350 overseas Chinese attending colleges and universities in Formosa through the encouragement of the ministry.¹⁷ About one-fourth attended National Taiwan University.

An Overseas-Chinese Teachers' Department is being established at the Provincial Normal University, where 50 teachers, to be selected from middle schools of overseas Chinese, are to complete a two-year training program.

17. Ibid., May 31, 1955.